



News about Geoparks, Geotourism, Geotrails and Geoheritage & related matters

FROM THE CHAIR



What a busy time the last three months have been. First, the Australian Geoparks Network was incorporated under the Western Australian Associations Incorporation Act 2015 on 13 April 2021. The following day we met with the Hon. Alannah MacTiernan, the WA Minister for Regional Development, who threw her support behind establishing geoparks in Western Australia.

Two weeks later on 28 April we held our First Board Meeting by Zoom with members of both the Australian Board and International Advisory Board in attendance. On 3 May geoparks were the feature of a major news story in an article published by both The Sydney Morning Herald and WA Today. The article was wrapped around news of the launch of the network. On the same day the Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, Queensland Premier, launched a new roadmap to grow dinosaur tourism in outback Queensland committing \$0.5M to the project.

During April the Australian Geoscience Council launched its *National Geotourism Strategy* to support greater development of major geotourism projects in Australia. On 1 June the Geological Society of Australia released a list of about 40 *Geotrails* which are either in operation or are planned around the country.

As we head into the second half of the year we are buoyed by a sense of optimism in regard to the growing recognition of all things related to geotourism and this bodes well for the future established of geoparks.

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LATEST NEWS

The Sydney Morning Herald

Why Australia's rocks could be the secret to reviving its regional economies

By Tess Ingram – 3 May 2021

www.smh.com.au/national/western-australia/why-australia-s-rocks-could-be-the-secret-to-reviving-its-regional-economies-20210429-p57nfc.htm



Queensland Government

Premier launched new roadmap to grow dinosaur tourism in outback Queensland

Press Release 2 May 2021

<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/92001?fbclid=IwAR3TxU0SMaYeD6oHrcoVTQ9a9qAdFkD79nMaDYiPJ8DTAm9yxpmC511dJ6g>



Australian Geoscience Council launch of National Geotourism Strategy

Media Release - 7 April 2021 <https://bit.ly/2Opdfxq>

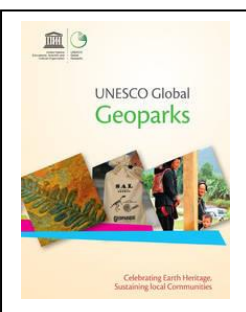
Explanatory Notes - <https://bit.ly/2PZotcr>

UNESCO

The International Geoscience and Geopark Programme Newsletter

An update of IGGP activities in the last trimester

The first Newsletter of UNESCO's International Geoscience and Geopark Programme has just been released. It includes information about 8 new UNESCO Global Geoparks which were endorsed by the UNESCO Executive Board on 21 April 2021. (https://98ca4554-1361-4fb1-a4d8a1bb16d032e6.filesusr.com/ugd/f1fc07_8febee35f5484d07bdc4072e8c2be7c3.pdf?index=true)



There are a number of UNESCO Global Geopark Publications which can be found on their website. A particularly good starting place is the 20-page brochure *UNESCO Global Geoparks*.

(<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000243650>)

UNESCO has also launched several YouTube clips about Geoparks. To view the first one (www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIWOMlaTjQo).

Featured Geopark



Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Global Geopark, New Zealand is that country's first geopark which is going for Global Geopark status. They have an exciting website (www.whitestonegeopark.nz) and put out a great newsletter. The latest can be accessed at <https://mailchi.mp/whitestonegeopark/june21-newsletter?e=53bfc6d9ff>.



Photo: Moeraki Boulders, Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Global Geopark (Tas Walker)

Their journey towards becoming a geopark is illustrated on their website in the following form!



Conferences



SEGRA – Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia is Australia’s premier conference on regional, rural, and remote Australia. This year it is celebrating its 20th year. This year’s Conference is being held in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Western Australia on 16-18 November. The Conference always has a credible section on Geotourism and Geoparks.

Find out more at <https://segra.com.au>

Papers & Reports



There are a number of academic journals and other publications which include papers or articles about geoparks and geotourism. One of the best is ProGEO’s *Geoheritage* which is an international journal dedicated to discussing all aspects of our global geoh heritage, both in situ and portable. Its latest issue Vol 13, Issue 2, June 2021 comprises 23 articles including Evaluating Geosites; Interpretation; Storytelling; and Education. (www.springer.com/journal/12371)

You are receiving this email as you have elected to be a member of the Australian Geoparks Network.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we live and work, the Nyoongar Whadjuk people, and we wish to acknowledge the strength of their continuing culture and offer our respects to Elders, past and present.